

## HALF WAY TO PEKIN

## Relief Column Advancing by Forced Marches.

## NEWS FROM GEN. CHAFFEE

## American Commander Announces His Arrival at Ho-Si-Wu on the 10th.

## ARMY APPARENTLY DEMORALIZED

## News of the Rapid Progress of the Allies,

## Though Exceedingly Meager, Causes

## the Liveliest Anticipation at the War

## Department—Officials Believe the Rescues

## of the Ministers May Be Effected

## Without Further Hostilities—Prince

## Tsun's Influence in the Event of the

## Flight of the Dowager Empress the

## Contingency Now Most to Be Feared—

## Army Probably Within Striking Distance

## of the Capital Yesterday—Rapid-

## ity of Movement a Surprise.

## Across the rolling country between

## Yangtsun and Pekin, Gen. Chaffee is

## now hastening with the allied forces. A

## dispatch received from him yesterday after-

## noon states that he is now half way, or

## more, to Pekin. The cablegram was dated

## at Ho-si-wu on the 10th instant, and an-

## nounced his arrival at that place on the

## previous day. It was very brief, contain-

## ing only the three or four words neces-

## sary to inform the War Department of

## his movements.

## There was no disguising the thrill of

## joy which the laconic message gave to

## the officials of the War Department. It

## was the first word which had come from

## him since his announcement that he was

## in Yangtsun, and it indicated a progres-

## siveness of movement that was most grat-

## ifying. Press dispatches had stated that

## the army was still waiting at Yangtsun,

## and, in view of the extreme heat and the

## large number of casualties, these state-

## ments had been accepted as accurate. It

## seems, however, that Gen. Chaffee did not

## allow the grass to grow under his feet.

## He brought into play his old tactics as

## an Indian fighter, and was probably

## perched to fullest endeavor by the dispatch

## which he had received from Minister

## Coner, saying that the Americans would

## hold out until help arrived.

## May Not Again Offer Battle.

## In view of the fact that no mention is

## made in Gen. Chaffee's dispatch of any

## opposing force, it is naturally believed

## that the Chinese army is either still re-

## treating toward Pekin or else has dis-

## appeared entirely. This gives basis for the

## hope that the advancing forces will not

## meet the enemy again until the walls of

## Pekin are sighted. It is barely possible

## that even then there may be no encoun-

## ter. At any rate, the optimism of the

## War Department officials now reaches

## that point where they believe when

## the foreign army reaches Pekin, the min-

## isters will be brought out and surren-

## dered, the transfer taking place in the

## open field. Only one dark cloud throws

## its shadow over this hopeful view. If the

## Empress Dowager should become alarmed

## and flee from Pekin, the reins of govern-

## ment might be taken up by Prince Tuan,

## who later foreigners with a deadly ha-

## nd, and then anarchy would result.

## There is a contingency which is

## suggested rather than feared.

## There is a probability that Gen. Chaffee

## is commanding the flying column now

## hastening toward Pekin. He has not made

## this announcement, but it is thought

## extremely probable that the other com-

## manders have recognized his peculiar ab-

## ility to handle troops in quick movements

## and have trusted him with the direction

## of the vanguard. Even if he is not in

## supreme command, it is certain that his

## impetuosity is influencing the allies, as

## otherwise there could not be displayed

## the energy which has marked the ad-

## vance.

## The Country Beyond Ho-si-wu.

## Ho-si-wu, the town which the column

## has now reached, is the largest place

## between Tientsin and Ching-chi-wan, the

## latter being almost a suburb of Pekin.

## The country consists of cultivated plains

## and has offered no physical obstacle to

## the forward movement of the troops. The

## Pai-Ho River has been kept closely on

## the left of the advancing column, supply-

## ing the needed water. At Ho-si-wu and be-

## hind, however, the inhabitants do not use

## river water, but rely upon the wells, of

## which there are a large number. How far

## these wells will be able to supply the

## large amount of water needed by an army

## of twelve or fourteen thousand is yet a

## problem, but Gen. Chaffee is relied upon to

## meet and conquer all difficulties. It may

## be that the Chinese will render the wells

## useless by filling them with dead bodies.

## This was a frequent trick of theirs in the

## famous Tiao-ping rebellion, and if again

## resorted to, will complicate the situation

## very materially.

## Close to Pekin by This Time.

## The battle of Yangtsun was fought on

## the 6th, and the advance to Ho-si-wu was

## accomplished on the 9th—a march of

## sixteen miles in three days. This was

## four days ago, and at the same rate of

## marching, Chaffee is even now fairly with-

## in striking distance of the walls of Pekin.

## It was a consummation which the War

## Department had awaited calmly, and,

## striding as the news was that the Amer-

## ican force was now nearing the gates of

## the imperial city, Secretary Root and Adj.

## Gen. Corbin evinced no surprise, as it ac-

## corded with calculations, although the

advance has been more rapid than was

expected.

In the enthusiasm of the moment a report got about that this was the day for the actual arrival at Pekin. But the War Department had not a word of the advance beyond Ho-si-wu.

Viewed from any standpoint, the advance to Ho-si-wu was of the utmost importance, not only strategically, but also in showing that communication was open back to Chien, that the expected opposition from Chinese hordes had not been sufficient to prevent the steady forward movement, and in the influence it would exert upon the Chinese government.

Slow Means of Communication.

Ho-si-wu is a place of considerable size, and the largest town between Tientsin and Ching-chi-wan. Tung Chow is the only other city of considerable size in the line of advance after leaving Ho-si-wu. It is surrounded by orchards and gardens, and is not a place likely to have afforded opportunity for strong defense.

As it has taken five days for Gen. Chaffee to report the advance to Ho-si-wu, it is evident that communication is not open to the front. This was hardly to be expected, and the safe arrival of the message at least shows that a certain measure of communication is open.

One of the chief sources of congratulation among officials is that the fabled hordes of China have not materialized, or at least have not prevented the international column from drawing close to the gates of Pekin.

Shortly after this dispatch arrived, another message from Gen. Chaffee, far more lengthy, gave the melancholy result of the fight at Yangtsun. The casualty list was given in detail, with the additional information that the dead had been buried at Yangtsun and that the wounded had been sent back to the hospital at Tientsin.

Re-enforcements at Nagasaki.

The arrival of the transport Sumner at Nagasaki was announced at the War Department yesterday, and was hailed with considerable satisfaction, owing to the fact that the portion of the Fifteenth Infantry which she carries will soon be available to re-enforce Gen. Chaffee. The large force of surgeons, nurses, and hospital attendants on the ship also will be a welcome addition to the hospital force now on shore in China. Gen. Barry, from whom the dispatch was received, is Gen. MacArthur's chief of staff. He goes on the Indiana to Taku to inspect that port, with a view to determining its availability as a Chinese base of supply. After this he will proceed to Manila.

## AMERICAN NOTE TO CHINA

Text of Refusal to Open Negotiations with Li Hung Chang.

Permission to Send Allied Escort to Pekin

Must Be Granted Before the Powers

Can Listen to Overtures for

Peace from the Chinese.

The reply of the United States government to the peace overtures of China was given out at the State Department yesterday. It is as follows:

Memorandum: Touching the imperial edict of August 10, 1900, in which the Chinese government requests the United States to send a plenipotentiary to negotiate with the Chinese government, and the request for a cessation of hostilities, pending negotiations, communicated to Mr. Adee by Mr. Wu on the 12th of August, 1900.

The government of the United States has with satisfaction the appointment of Earl Li Hung Chang as plenipotentiary to conduct negotiations with the powers, and with, on its part, enter upon such negotiations, with a desire to continue the friendly relations now existing between the two countries.

It is evident that there can be no general negotiation between China and the powers so long as the ministers of the powers and the persons under their protection remain in their present position of restraint and danger, and that the powers cannot cease their efforts for the delivery of these representatives, to which they are constrained by the highest considerations of national honor, except under an arrangement adequate to accomplish a peaceful delivery.

We are ready to enter into an agreement between the powers and the Chinese government for a cessation of hostilities, on condition that a sufficient body of the forces composing the relief expedition shall be permitted to enter Pekin unmolested and to escort the foreign ministers and plenipotentiaries to Tientsin, the movement being provided for and secured by such arrangements and dispositions of troops as shall be considered satisfactory by the generals commanding the forces composing the relief expedition.

ALVIE A. ADEE,

Acting Secretary.

Department of State, Washington, August 12, 1900.

The text of the States had taken this course was foreboding in yesterday's Post, but the announcement of the text of the message disclosed the firm policy which the United States had adopted.

The "imperial" action taken by this government lies to a considerable extent in the wording of the message. China had made overtures for peace, and had thus opened the way for a possible compromise for further diplomatic temporizing. The United States, in its response, laid down certain specific preliminaries to any peace overture, including an entirely new demand, namely, that a sufficiently large force be sent to Tientsin, and that the Empress Dowager and the Emperor not be allowed to leave Pekin, but quietly to await the arrival of the international forces.

The German Foreign Office still believes that the allies had not begun the advance on Pekin, the rainy season being unfavorable. It believes that a further forward movement will be postponed.

The Chinese protest against the landing of troops at Shanghai has been officially received here. A Foreign Office official, discussing it, said this afternoon:

"The protest is here, but who pays any attention to Chinese protests?"

Great Britain, according to the German Foreign Office, has not given any other declaration of purpose in landing troops at Shanghai than the declaration made by the British Consul General to the other foreign consuls there, namely, the protection of life and property.

Tokyo, Aug. 12.—The opinion is expressed in Japanese official circles that Russia's occupation of Newchwang justifies the dispatch of British troops to Shanghai.

It is believed that other powers will be driven to take similar measures in other parts of China.

Ho Wind Injures Kansas Corn.

Salina, Kans., Aug. 12.—An intensely hot wind has been blowing over central Kansas to-day and vegetation has withered rapidly. The late corn that survived the last dry spell has been shriveling to-day, and the crop percentage has been considerably decreased. The thermometer has registered as high as 112 degrees in the business streets and has been above 100 degrees in the shade.

Three Men Killed in Roadside Quarrel.

Aberdeen, Miss., Aug. 12.—Homer and Walter Little, both of Aberdeen, were killed to-day at Monroe, La., in a quarrel on the public road, in which J. S. Lanier and George and Jeff, took part, in 60.

As to the Lanier, another son, a gray-haired man, having been killed in a quarrel between the Laniers and the Bittles, which, however, was thought to have been settled until the second meeting took place.

Continued on second page.

## PLIGHT OF LEGATIONS

## Only Ten Days' Supply of Food on August 6.

## RELIEF SOON, OR A MASSACRE

Sir Claude MacDonald Describes the Situation in a Dispatch to the Consul at Canton—Chaffee's Report from Ho-si-wu the Only News of the Progress of the International Forces—Ten Americans Were Wounded by British and Russian Fire.

London, Aug. 14.—2:30 a. m.—The British consul at Canton, says the Daily Telegraph's correspondent there, has received the following message from Sir Claude MacDonald, British Minister in Peking:

"Our situation here is desperate. In ten days our food supply will be at an end. Unless we are relieved, a general massacre is probable."

"The Chinese offer to escort us to Tientsin, but, remembering Cawnpore, we refuse the offer. There are over 200 European women and children in this legation."

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Express, writing yesterday, says: "The allies at noon Saturday were within twenty miles of Pekin." As Gen. Chaffee's report, which is the only authentic news received here regarding the advance of the international forces about forty miles from Pekin on Friday, it seems probable that this Shanghai report is optimistic. It is scarcely likely that the allies could advance twenty miles in as many hours.

A Yangtsun dispatch, dated August 7, giving details regarding the capture of that place, says:

"The British and French held the left, the British the right center, the Americans the right center, and the Japanese the extreme right. The British and Americans advanced on the village at a rapid rate for 5,000 yards, and then the British and Americans opened a severe shell and rifle fire. The Russians opened fire on the British-American advance became a race for positions, culminating in a brilliant charge."

The heaviest loss of the day was sustained by the Americans, the Fourteenth Infantry having nine killed, sixty-two wounded, and several missing. The Bengali Lancers unsuccessfully attempted to cut off the Chinese retreat.

Another Yangtsun special says:

"Owing to a mistake, British and Russian guns shelled the Fourteenth United States Infantry during the night, wounding ten."

Commenting upon this occurrence, the Standard says:

"It is melancholy to learn that the losses of the Americans, who seem to have been themselves, over the Chinese, gallantry were increased by a deplorable error, in consequence of which one of their regiments was pounded by Russian and British cannon. The incident emphasizes the necessity of that close cooperation which is not easily obtainable without a single commander and a general staff."

Official advice from Yokohama, dated yesterday, says that the allies proposed advance on August 7 to Nant-si-tsun, between Yangtsun and Wusung. The Japanese suffered no casualties at Yangtsun, but the official reports say they had 20 at Peltang.

Cossacks Slew the Wounded.

The Daily Mail's St. Petersburg correspondent declares that the taking of Aigun has sealed the fate of the rising in North-eastern Manchuria. He adds:

"No prisoners were taken by the Russians. Wholesale massacre was the order of the day, and when the battle was over the Cossacks rode over the field, killing all the wounded with the butt ends of their muskets."

Once more the press of England remarks upon the ability of the American government to recover from the disaster of the day. "It is to Gen. Chaffee," says the Daily Mail, "that we are again indebted for news from the front. Not a single dispatch from Sir Alfred Gaselee has thus far been issued by the war office."

Commenting upon the American reply to the Chinese overtures, the Daily News says:

"The reply is more conciliatory than that of M. Delcasse, and, in some respects, it is a little ambiguous. Still, its substance is the same. It may be observed that the United States government does not seem to have any objection to the Chinese proposal that the Empress Dowager and the Emperor not be allowed to leave Pekin, but quietly to await the arrival of the international forces."

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## WHEELER SAVES BRYAN'S SON.

William J., Jr., Was Hanging by His Toes from a High Window.

Chicago, Aug. 13.—Gen. Joseph Wheeler, commander of the regiment in the Lakes, to-day saved the life of William J. Bryan, Jr., the twelve-year-old son of the Democratic candidate for the Presidency. The lad visited Gen. Wheeler, and after his first greeting, turned to his work and allowed the youngster to amuse himself as best he might. Young Bryan found a loose chair caster and a big bundle of rubber bands. These he tied into a long string and then, securing the caster to the bottom, went to a window and began nipping the piece of iron up and down on the sidewalk, seventy-five feet below.

The general, engrossed with his labors, paid no attention to the boy, who gradually became so interested in his play that he leaned farther and farther out of the easement of the window. "Fighting Joe" happened to glance up a few moments later, and, looking down, saw the lad hanging with his whole body over the sidewalk and only the toes of his shoes clutching the angle of the window. He sat up for a moment, and then, rushing to the window, he pulled the lad by his legs and landed him safely on the floor.

Speaking of the occurrence afterward, Gen. Wheeler acknowledged that he had been within an inch of being dashed to death on the pavement below when he caught sight of him.

## BOER CAMPAIGN FUND STORY.